

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for developing a request for proposal by an owner, and a responding proposal by a design builder for design and construction of a product, comprising:

defining a requirements file for said request for proposal including a performance specification and a prescriptive specification by selecting product descriptors from an owner database;

combining said requirements file with owner information to produce said request for proposal by selecting prewritten text segments from said owner database;

electronically linking attachments to said requirements file;

sending said request for proposal with said attachments as a first overlay to a design builder;

opening and reading said first overlay with reference to a proposer database correlating to said owner database;

preparing a responding proposal from said design builder by adding detailed product descriptors selected from said proposer database to said first overlay and producing a second overlay;

attaching proposer information and a cost statement to said second overlay;

sending said second overlay from said design builder to said owner;

producing an electronic comparison file by comparing said first overlay and said second overlay; and

using a document-use global switch option in said steps of defining and preparing .

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said defining comprises:

choosing the document-use global switch option corresponding to a request for proposal in order to convert the grammar of product descriptors to the imperative language appropriate to a request for proposal;

selecting at least one first product element from a first set of product elements on said owner database;

selecting from said owner database at least one performance value for said at least one first product element;

customizing said at least one product element and said at least one performance value by adding and subtracting text; and

storing a first representative for said customized at least one product element and said customized at least one performance value in electronic form.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said preparing comprises:

receiving said first overlay;

constructing said second overlay using first overlay; and

choosing the document-use global switch option corresponding to a proposal in order to convert the grammar of product descriptors to the promissory language appropriate to a proposal.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said preparing further comprises:

choosing the document-use global switch option corresponding to instructions for a sub-contractor in order to convert the grammar of product descriptors to the imperative language appropriate to instructions for subcontractors;

sending said second overlay to a third device of a supplier of materials for said product;

selecting at said third device a third set of data from a supplier database correlating to said proposer database;

constructing a third overlay by adding detailed product descriptors from said supplier database;

choosing the document-use global switch option corresponding to a proposal in order to convert the grammar of product descriptors to the promissory language appropriate to a proposal to the design-builder; and

sending said third overlay to said second device.